

# VALLEY STAR

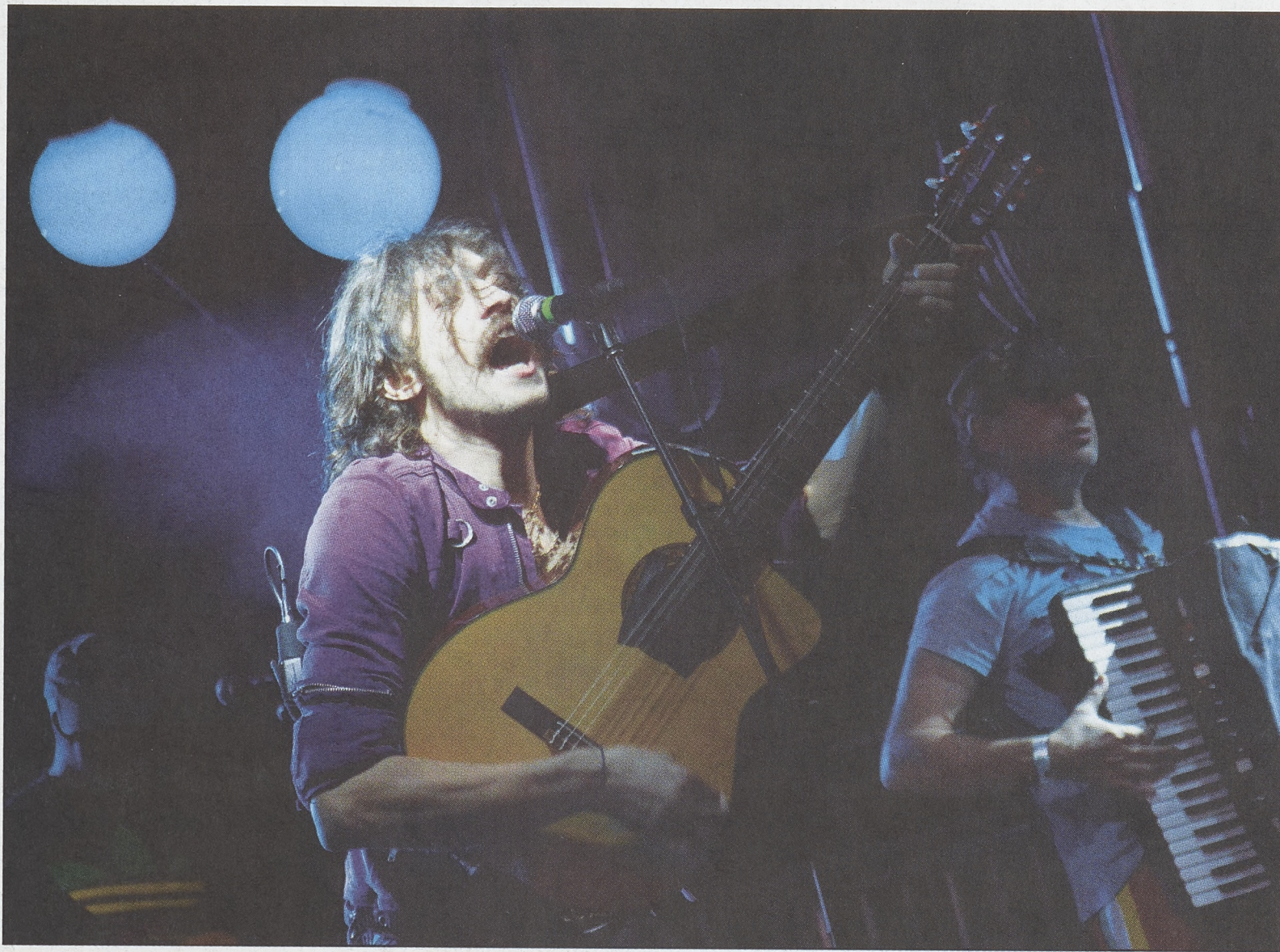
THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 69, ISSUE NO. 4

OCTOBER 8, 2008

It's *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

## GYPSY PUNKS WEAR PURPLE



Eugene Hutz of the multi-ethnic Gypsy punk band Gogol Bordello hits notes resonating a level of brilliance that borders psychosis. More than 30 bands performed on the streets surrounding City Hall for the third Annual LA Weekly Detour Festival on Saturday. For the full story see Valley Life, page 5.

JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

## Admin Asks ASU for Campus Bailout

BY SHARON HARDWICK  
STAFF WRITER

As fiscal woes continue to beleaguer Valley College, the school's administration heads to the Associated Student Union to ask for financial help.

"In years past, when there has been a budget crisis, the ASU has helped [the administration] in a very specific way," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "When faced with decisions to cut back on student workers and tutors, they have offered to fill in the [budget] gap."

This "very specific way" has included assisting with student worker payroll to allow the library and/or tutoring hours to be extended during finals week. Yet, no such suggestions were made by Carleo at the ASU's first executive board meeting of the semester. There was a request for financial help from administration but no concrete examples of what that help would look like. Instead, Carleo left it up to the ASU.

"[The] ASU really needs to take the initiative though. We don't want them to feel like we're walking in and taking their money," said Carleo. "They will need to take a vote and decide what they want to do. This collaboration works best when the ASU identify and focus on what they want to help with."

The ASU funds their budget entirely from students and faculty who pay their ASU fee. But paying the \$7 fee is not mandatory. When paying fees at the business office students can opt-out. When paying fees online, students have no choice but to pay the fee. Yet, even online payments are no guarantee for the ASU.

"There are more students who come in to get refunds of their online payment of the ASU fee than those who pay the fee," said Petros Bakalyan of the Business Office. "A very low percentage pays the ASU fee because it's not mandatory." Bakalyan estimates that

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## Delays Distress Allied Health and Faculty

BY ASTRID SEIPELT  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The unfinished \$47 million Allied Health and Science building, coupled with missing materials needed for classes, has led to frustration among faculty members and students entering into the fifth week of instruction.

A major problem for biology and chemistry has been that fume hoods, which are a safety necessity when chemicals are in use, were not ready for use until the middle of last week. This, along with a lack of equipment and materials has left some instructors unable to complete labs with their students since the beginning of the semester. Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science, Anthropology and Health Science are all housed in the facility, located on the corner of Ethel Avenue and Burbank Boulevard.

"Chemistry 102 has not completed any experiments," said Elizabeth Friedman, professor of chemistry. "I try to talk to them about what they should have been able to see in the lab, but then all

we are doing is more theory, which is the same as lecture, and they are not getting any hands on experience."

Faculty moved into the facility during the last two weeks of August, with many items still left undone. Plastic sheets cover parts of stairwells, temporary paper signs are fixed to doors and ethernet cables snaking into Allied Health

from the Business Journalism building. Moving boxes are still piled around, with their contents waiting for a new home.

"We understand that it's frustrating and we're all experiencing this, because the building is not done," said Don Gauthier, chair of earth sciences and anthropology, and the co-leader of the building user group. "If you check with

other buildings, like the Math Building or Humanities, they have hardware that is missing. Which is, unfortunately, a part of things, but we were told that everything would be done."

According to Gauthier, the chemistry department is unable to perform any lab work because the chemicals they need have not been delivered.

"What I am really worried about now is that we are pushing on the middle of October, which is when [the Physics and Chemistry] buildings are supposed to come offline," Gauthier said. "That means that everything needs to be done here, and we are still wondering where we are going to put the classes that we moved into Chemistry and Physics."

The Biology Department is also experiencing difficulties, something which Department Chair Karen Roy says she warned her faculty members about before they moved into the building.

"Our problem is that most of our stuff is still in boxes because

see *Allied Health* page 2

JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**SHELVES STILL EMPTY** — Due to the wrong dimensions and poor planning of the new chemistry stock room in the Allied Health Building, Lab Technician Josh Saffren can't use the space provided to store dangerous chemicals and equipment used by the department.

## Child Development Wins Big With Grant

BY SHARON HARDWICK  
STAFF WRITER

The Family Resource Center, which operates under the umbrella of Valley College's Child Development Department, has been awarded more than \$3.8 million to support Valley's childhood education and development students while providing outreach to the local community.

"We're the tie to the real life workforce," said Kathleen Weislein of special projects in the child development department. "[Students] learn what they need to be a viable, competitive candidates out there. What we're doing is working, that's why we're getting the money."

Since July 2001, the Family Resource Center, which operates out of Bungalow 49 on campus, has been using grant money from five separate local and state grantors. This money has funded eight child development programs at Valley. These programs will extend into the fall of 2012.

The overarching purpose of the student training projects is to provide knowledge,

such as a free conference about working with children with special needs, and streamlining the process of becoming an educator to make sure students are successful in the workforce.

"We try to bring in new ideas," continued Weislein. "We collaborate with our industry partners, build relationships which are the foundation for everything here. Without the relationships, we wouldn't have this place."

Marni Roosevelt, director of special projects in the Child Development Department got the idea of a baby-clothing exchange from just such a relationship. Flyers were dropped off at offices of education industry partners asking parents to donate their children's gently-used clothing to Valley's Resource Center. The undertaking has been a success.

"Thankfully we just got in a big shipment," said Weislein pointing to the clothing bin near the door. "Last week it was empty. People come in with bags!"

The \$3.8 million grant makes it possible for The Family Resource Center to hold free English and English/Spanish parent and baby

sessions twice a week, one session for infants (not walking) and another for toddlers (walking). The parent and baby sessions are popular with local residents.

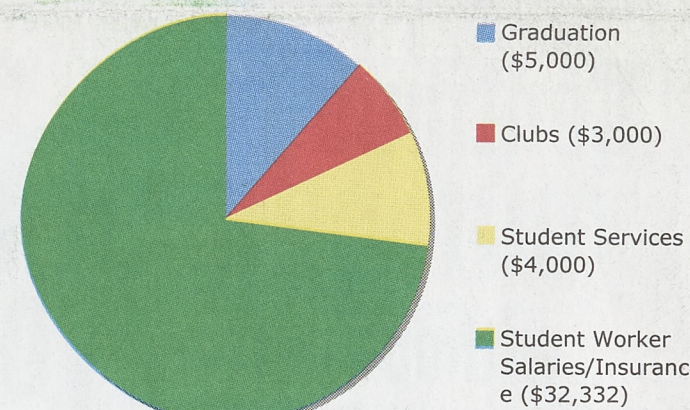
"It's such a nice environment for moms and babies to socialize," said Sarah Serrano, a local parent whose infant sat playing with soft toys on the multi-colored floor mat. "I was looking for a place like this for a long time, but there aren't that many in the area. Other places want to sell you something. Here, everyone is so knowledgeable about children."

"Plus," said Mary Lopez, a full-time instructor in Valley's childhood development department, "everything here is free."

Valley's Family Resource Center has won industry awards since 2006. This year, it was honored with the Los Angeles Community College District, Excellence in Workforce Development Award for 'Most Flexible Program.'

"We're all about student and community support," concluded Weislein. "We want people to come in. We have the money."

ASU Budget Allotment 2008-2009



GRAPHIC BY KRISTEN BECKER, NEWS EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Out of the ASU's \$107,000 budget, approximately \$44,000 is already accounted for. The majority of the student government's budget is spent on services for Valley College's students

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Online classes - A look to the future or sending learning to the Dark Ages?

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### Heroes Defeated

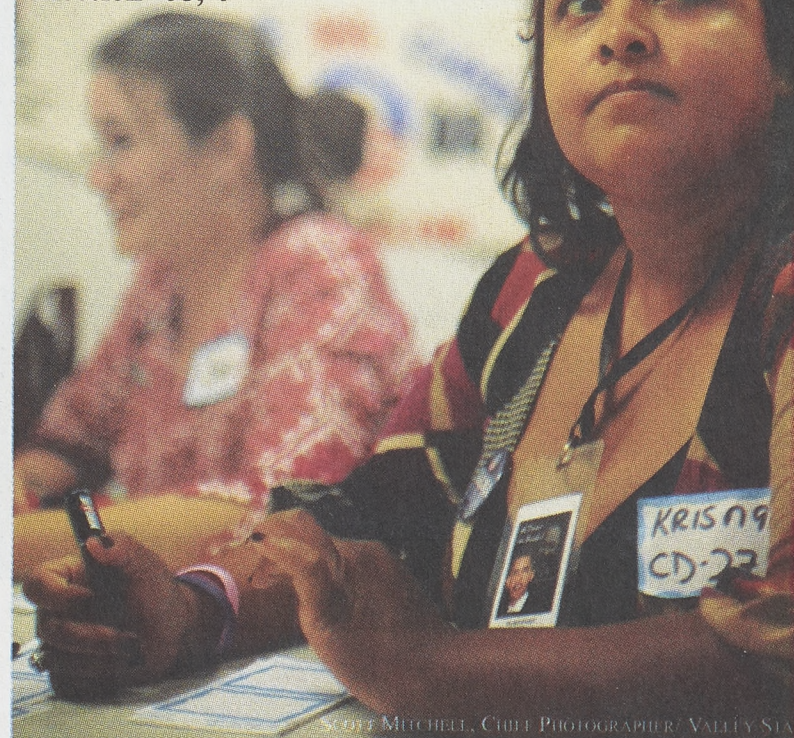
The third season of heroes doesn't live up to its predecessors.

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### Election Overdrive

An in-depth look at the issues and candidates on the ballot this November.

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SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR



## Second Time is a Charm For Wall Street Bailout Bill

BY JOE LAFLEUR  
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 3, four days after rejecting the first \$700-billion bailout, the House of Representatives passed by a vote of 263-171 its successor, which added \$150 billion in "sweeteners."

"We have acted boldly to help prevent the crisis on Wall Street from becoming a crisis in communities across our country," President George W. Bush said Friday after signing the act into law.

The new and improved 451-page Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, essentially maintains the same goal as the first: to purchase unwanted or "toxic" mortgage assets from troubled banks and other financial companies in order to allow them to begin raising fresh capital and resume lending.

The bill gives the Treasury Department, headed by Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, \$250 billion immediately to begin their purchase of

these toxic mortgages. Upon request, an additional \$100 billion can be granted to the department at the discretion of the president and another \$350 billion is available unless Congress resolves to revoke it. The bill, however, allows the president to veto such a resolution.

The "sweeteners" include tax relief provisions for disaster victims; a hybrid car tax credit; research and development tax credits; tax breaks for teachers who spend their own money on school supplies and a provision that shields 24 million taxpayers from the alternative minimum tax.

In response to constituents' worries, Congress included measures establishing two oversight boards: the first will include members appointed by Congress and the second will be comprised of the Treasury secretary and the chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Despite these newly added restrictions, Paulson, who lost his effort to have decisions

exempt from congressional review, will still have wide latitude in deciding factors, such as how to value toxic assets and who to hire to run the second program.

The bill also contains measures that will limit caps on benefit packages in order to prevent banks from profiting from this government rescue; however, an exception is made for those assets acquired in a merger, buyout or from companies that have filed for bankruptcy.

According to the Associated Press, "this detail could allow JPMorgan Chase & Co. to sell toxic mortgages and other assets it gained control of ... when it purchased Washington Mutual Inc. for a higher price than the failed thrift paid for them."

Paulson, who will have 45 days from the time bill was passed to set up an acquisition system, has not yet decided on a system. It appears the Treasury Department will use a reverse auction. Companies will reduce their bid price until the government

feels it is fair and decides to accept.

Thirty-five House members changed their votes in favor of the bill; many did so out of necessity and reluctantly.

"I am just as angry and frustrated as many of those who have called my office," said Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton). "But I voted for it because my constituents' 401(k)s, their life savings, and the ability to take out car, home and student loans hang in the balance."

Although many lawmakers, including the president, felt the bill had improved from the original, most know that it is only a small step in improving the damaged economy.

"Let's not kid ourselves. We're in the midst of a recession," said Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio). "It's going to be a rough ride. But it will be a whole lot rougher ride if we don't pass this bill."

## 'Allied Health'

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we moved over so late and the building wasn't ready...we couldn't even unpack in the week before classes started," said Roy. "I think our biggest thing is not waiting on new materials because we told ourselves to survive on what we had, and then we would have it better in the spring. The thing is we don't even have our old stuff."

Security has also been a concern for the building, with Roy stating that it was only recently that faculty members were able to lock their doors, and that there have been thefts of equipment from the facility.

"The week of Labor Day weekend, we had five digital projectors stolen. They wanted to wax the floor so they put all of our stuff out of the rooms...so these \$5,000 digital projectors, five of them, walked off," said Roy. "And then you come in and find the doors are locked because people have come in [to do work in the building]. And I know one of the chemistry teachers had a thumb drive stolen that had all his tests on it."

However, not all instructors using Allied Health building have encountered problems. Adjunct Instructor for

Anthropology Eleanor Strauss has generally been happy with how things have progressed.

"Since we could not set up the classroom exactly how we wanted it for our department, that is taking some time. But that's to be expected. We were able to get our materials into cabinets and locked in a fairly timely way."

Yet, Strauss did note that she still has not received a set of keys for the building, and if she wants access to storage closets, she must ask the custodial staff to be let in.

Elizabeth Friedman raised concerns that due to the lack of labs being performed, individual classes could lose their transfer accreditation to four-year universities. Sandy Mayo, vice president of academic affairs, states that this is not a concern that she shares.

"We have a history of doing what the university have asked us to do to make sure our courses articulate properly," she said. "We have an excellent faculty who are well versed and ethical, and they will make sure that the students get what they need. I have no concerns about articulation in any way."

There has been a recent change in leadership in URS management services, with project manager Rinaldo Veseliza leaving for other pursuits and replaced by Jim Rogers Sept. 15. Rogers' plan during his time at Valley is to aggressively

pursue a course of action that will speed along the progress of the \$286 million construction and renovation work on campus.

"When the opportunity came up to work for URS, I specifically asked to come here to Valley College, because I knew that there were some unique challenges," said Rogers. "...In the previous two community college campuses that I worked, as a director of facilities or a project manager, both campuses started off with a science building in distress."

Vice President of Administrative Services, Tom Jacobsmeier said that the move in and lack of equipment problems encountered with Allied Health Building is a lesson learned for the college, and there will be a change made to the timeline of ordering equipment so that there will not be a delay in its installation. Also, officials within the school are working together to get the largest problems with the building corrected within the next two weeks.

"The building is working okay, but there are a couple of things we need to do, we need to get the chemistry lab up and running completely, hopefully within the next week," said Jacobsmeier. "Any curriculum related problems in the building we are going to deal with immediately."

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## 'Budget'

continued from page 1

out of every 10 students who pay their tuition and fees at the office, not one will pay the \$7.

Much of the ASU's \$107,000 budget is already allocated to student activities, such as graduation (\$5,000), clubs (\$3,000) and services such as tutoring and transfer assistance (approx. \$4,000), and student worker salaries and insurance (\$32,332). And as student events, activities and clubs continue to be added to

**"If students can't succeed in the classroom our priority is to fix it."**

- Josh Wible  
ASU President

the roster, the ASU may not be able to meet the undefined financial requests of administration.

Both ASU President Josh Wible and Carleo agree that the purpose of Valley's ASU is to help students succeed. However, Wible feels like the ASU's hands are tied when the college's administration asks for money while also wanting them to be the voice of the student body.

"It's tough for us to take initiative," Wible said. "Especially since we're getting budget requests from media arts, the music department. If students can't succeed in the classroom our priority is to fix it. It's our duty. I can't take the initiative to ask what they [administration] need. They have to come to us."

### CAMPUS CRIME

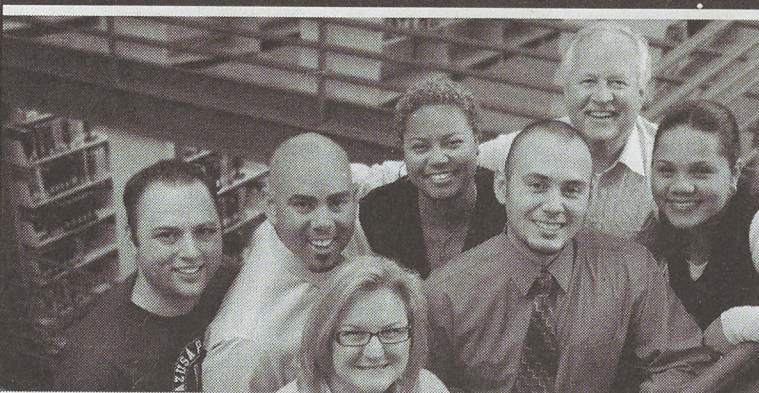
## Campus Center Rumble

BY SASHA SANTACRUZ  
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 1 at about 6:50 p.m., a Valley College student was walking to his humanities class in the Campus Center and was confronted by a handful of men. The student was approaching the door to the classroom when an argument broke out. He placed his things down inside the classroom and walked out. The class heard a loud bang against the door and some yelling. The instructor went out and witnessed the group of men repeatedly

beating and pushing the victim. Some students began pulling and pushing the perpetrators off the student to end the altercation. The set of men then fled down the stairs. The victim appeared to have some bruising on his face when he walked into class to grab his belongings. When the student left the class, Professor Farrel Brosowski went to look for him. While searching, he stopped a security guard and explained what happened. The guard then notified the Sheriff's Station. "No one should come to a college and have to fix this kind of behavior," said Brosowski.

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## OPINION

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## Boring Lectures, No More

BY LAUREN LEES  
STAFF WRITER

After a long day of work, the last thing you want to do is go to Valley College and sit in a chair for three hours, listening to some teacher drone on while your eyes fight to stay open and your stomach pangs for food.

Nowadays, a new educational savior has arisen in the form of online classes. Instead of rushing to school, you can drive home after work and grab some dinner. You can then get comfortable in front of your computer, prepared for another session of class.

In today's high-tech digital world, it is about time that education modifies itself from its traditional setting, and gives students the authority to dictate when, where, and how they learn.

Single parent students or students already in a career can still raise a child or work without sacrificing their education, thanks to the many classes now at their finger tips.

Florida Tech, ranked as a best national University according to U. S. News and World Report, has a complete online university with a current 3.2 million students, and offers online degrees in Business and Criminal Justice dedicated to professional students wanting to advance in their career. Even California State Universities, such as CSU East Bay, Chico and Bakersfield, are beginning to implement online degrees in such fields as Computer Sciences, Human Development and Business.

"You benefit with having all your material online, it's more accessible," said Valley student Kimberly Turbin. "You don't have to lug around a 300-pound book with you. You can make a class where you are at."

The online experience is not as intimate as a traditional classroom setting.

There will be no open discussions or one-on-one interaction with your fellow peers.

However, they contain no annoyingly boring lectures, or the class knowledge all rudely interrupting every discussion. Every test is open book, with the Internet to search for hard questions.

The wide acceptance and accessibility is proving online classes to be heavy competition for the long-established classroom environment. In a world where convenience reigns supreme, online classes take easy dominance, proving that no classroom can beat the Internet.

## Online, a Waste of Time

BY SARAH KNOWLES  
OPINION EDITOR

As the nights draw in and each October morning greets us with clouded skies and cold, the prospect of an 8 a.m. start for a history class doesn't sound so appealing. While taking the class online

may seem like an ingenious plan, as soon as the winter begins to come to an end and you once again complain about the weather being too hot, you'll end up with a satisfactory grade but know less about that subject than ever. Online classes are nothing more than a lazy and useless way of finishing up those

units you desperately want to avoid.

According to the Valley College website, 72 classes are available to take either exclusively online or as a hybrid. This number has risen over the last few years, as the classes become more popular for all the wrong reasons.

Many online class instructors grade much of the work through multiple choice tests. Each test is timed, but with an hour and a half to work with, it only takes a few seconds to use your favorite search engine to copy and paste each question to find the answer.

"I finished an online class without even buying the text book," said one Valley student who wished to remain anonymous. "Most of the work you can find online through Google."

Not only are online tests a waste of time, but those few students who actually want to learn something may find it harder than expected. Getting in contact with a professor can prove disheartening, as you await a reply to an email or the return of a phone call hours or even days after the issue you need help with arises.

While some will argue that taking an online class is a godsend for those attempting to juggle the demands of a job with an education, many students who take on the online subjects work only part time and live at home.

"I lived at home and worked part time," said Broadcast Journalism major Anna Kleyman. "I took it for the fact that it was available and I didn't have to come into school."

It cannot be argued that technology is expanding positively every day, but while this is occurring, online education is not the intelligent way forward. To those that protest the classes are a great addition to their busy lives, take note: traditional education that actually means something is supposed to be completed *before* you start a family.

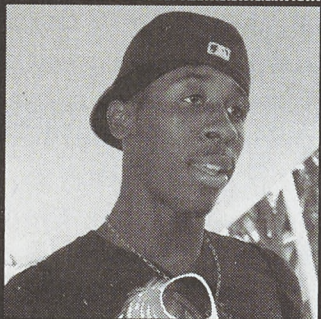


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## CAMPUS VIEW:

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PARANZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

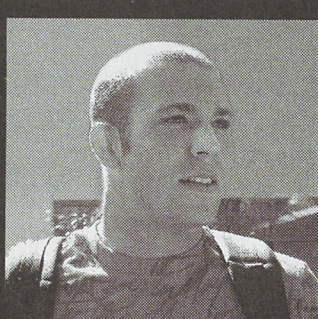
What do you think about online classes?



"When I think about online classes, I think about being lazy. It's a lack of information. I've never really been told much about them."

- Fleet Lewis  
accounting

"I've taken an online class and it was definitely worth it. Subjects like Math are better in person, but most others are fine being done online."

- Danitra Jenkins  
psychology

"I don't like the lack of interaction with an online class. I think it's much better in the classroom."

- Greg Fields  
business

"I like seeing the whole campus picture. I definitely learn better when the class is taught face to face."

- Ana Lopez  
landscaping architecture

## Times Have Been A Changin'

BY ANDY ALCARAZ  
STAFF WRITER

Family Guy's Peter Griffin put it best when he said, "What's wrong with gay marriage? I say let them get married and be miserable like the rest of us."

Proposition 8, on the ballot this November, seems to disagree. If passed, the proposition would amend the California Constitution to only recognize "traditional" marriages between a man and a woman.

Of course, the issue of same-sex marriage is more serious than a raunchy evening cartoon and obviously there are other important factors that play into it, but it is disappointing to still live in a state, more importantly a country, where we have to vote on someone's right to marry as if it is some sort of reality TV show.

Since the California Supreme Court extended the right to marry to same-sex couples earlier this May, many people have been in an uproar.

"This ruling defies logic," said Mathew Staver, founder of the Liberty Counsel, in a press release on the organizations website. "The California Supreme Court has defied logic, undermined the will of the people, and weakened our future."

Individuals with the same opinion as Staver reacted in opposition to the court ruling by getting Proposition 8 on the ballot. Various religious leaders and pro-family individuals sponsored by www.protectmarriage.com started a petition, the California Marriage Protection Act, to get an initiative which would overturn the state Supreme Court's decision. The petition eventually garnered enough signatures to land on this year's bill.

On Nov. 4, 2008 Californians will once again

take to the polls where they will decide the fate of over 100,000 gay households, the amount coming from a 2000 census data.

However, the message that will be delivered to the California public on Nov. 5 needs to be a resounding "No." The proposition and its proponents must realize that today's society just has a different kind of makeup. There is no room anymore for old morals that are not applicable or relevant in modern times. An issue like this does not belong at the forefront of California, or for that matter U.S. politics when bigger concerns, like oil reliance and energy are at hand.

We live in a world where things are constantly changing. We have sent people into space, manufactured prosthetics for the disabled, gained greater human understanding through cultural immersion, yet cannot seem to figure out how to get over this morality hump we believe exists in marriage.

To hold marriage, "a sanctity" as many people call it, to the same legislative scrutiny as other laws such as stealing or murder is wrong.

When talking of marriage we are talking

of love, not morality. To deny someone the highest privilege of expressing their commitment and dedication to their significant other, especially when it is the most culturally identified and accepted thing to do in our society, is a great shortcoming for everyone.

All things considered, this proposition and its future will either stand as a continued appeal to our ignorance or stand at the helm of a social revolution where it will be a testament to our progression. So do not see this measure as being against marriage, but against that strong threshold into the human heart, love.



JONATHAN GIBBY / PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

## Vote Substance, not Style

BY SARAH KNOWLES  
OPINION EDITOR

After a recent Valley College club day where students were urged to register to vote and various national campaigns, we all need to step back and realize something. Most students know nothing about the party they are voting for, except the shape of Sarah Palin's glasses or Barack Obama's appearance on Oprah.

For this reason students should not be encouraged to vote in the upcoming farce of an election and should stay away from doing so until they have any real knowledge about the candidates and what they offer.

"I think that a lot of people will be voting based on emotional reactions and biases rather than on actual information or real issues," said Valley student Jesse Vindola. "I think that both parties have been doing a poor job of actually focusing on real plans and decisions, and just relying on party loyalty, slogans, and crowd pleasing phrases."

According to the US Census Bureau 47 percent of adults aged 18-to-24 voted in the 2004 election, an increase of 7 percent from the previous election. With the media pouncing on the current voting season like never

before, the numbers are once again expected to rise. While this should be good news it only spells out disaster. While more students will be voting, more know less about the policies than ever before.

While the words 'bias' and 'politics' seem to go together like strawberries and cream, the strategies used by today's media as well as the candidates themselves is still a sorry way to gain a vote. With young celebrities with an even younger fan base doing the rounds in order to secure their candidates victory, it is no wonder student voters want to get in on this circus act they know nothing about.

"Saturday Night Live" saw its highest ratings success as Tina Fey took on the role of Sarah Palin, lampooning every word spoken by the Vice Presidential nominee. Nielsen Media Research stated that the show was the highest rating program on the night of all Palin skits so far.

With the popular media constantly mocking the politicians, and biased opinions of stars thrown in each young persons face, the chances of a fair, educated vote are even more slight than usual.

The youngsters whom were busy screaming for Britney during 2000 have no chance in reaching a valid verdict, and neither does this election.

## WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC!

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Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.



# Palin Rides "Road To Victory" Tour Into Carson

BY SHARON HARDWICK  
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps not taking into account Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin's quasi-celebrity status, California State University, Dominguez Hills booked the smaller of their stadium venues for her "Road to Victory" rally, leaving hundreds with tickets unable to get in and police and security to keep the peace.

The 8,000 capacity Home Depot Center squeezed 12,000 people in on Saturday for the rally. By 2:20 p.m., stadium doors were shut, leaving local police deputies and secret service to turn people away. Lady Cage-Barile, a candidate for State Assembly in the 47th district, could not get in despite her VIP ticket.

"They didn't want anyone else in," said Deputy A.D. Williams. "They've already broken down [security] equipment."

Hundreds remained outside the stadium, waiting to hear Palin's address over the PA system. At 2:50 p.m., after introductions by Shelly Mandell, president of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Organization for Women

and life-long Democrat, Palin took the stage.

In an effort to draw in women voters Palin began her speech by quoting, albeit incorrectly, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright by saying, "There is a place in Hell for women who don't support each other."

Palin's speech centered on her support for McCain as President, as well as making distinctions between the Republican and Democratic tickets. She addressed foreign policy and energy issues as well as the war in Iraq, driving her point home when one heckler tried to interrupt her speech.

"You know," said Palin. "This is why my son is fighting the war in Iraq, for freedom of speech."

Chants of "Sarah! Sarah!" and applause could be heard from outside the stadium. Roughly thirty minutes into Palin's speech, audience members started filing out even, though Palin had



**PROTEST FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T SPEAK** - Animal rights activist Avery Endow holds a sign of Gov. Palin wearing a wolf carcass while touching up her bright red lipstick outside of Saturdays rally at the Home Depot Center. "I feel like this message needs to get out, I think its just like the same people actually process the fact that they go up in the airplanes and their helicopters and shoot at wolves."

not stopped speaking.

"I think [people are leaving] because it took us, like, two hours to get in here and most of us

are parked about another half an hour away," said Pam Wheeler, a resident of Orange County and Palin supporter. "So, it was just

the thrill of seeing her, hopefully our next Vice President of the United States. We can see the rest of her speech on television."

Demonstrators had gathered all day to protest the rally. Chants of "No more dummies in the White House!" and "California's blue, if you don't like it, leave!" could be heard from Obama supporters.

According to the Carson Sheriff's department, 18 officers had been dispatched to the rally. Although the protesting was peaceful, at least six deputies and two police cruisers separated McCain from Obama supporters as they thronged past the Obama camp.

One Palin supporter, identified only as Matt, pointed to the demonstrators and said, "That is what communists look like." He continued by saying that, "People like John McCain

spent five years in prison to give these [Obama] people the right to act like idiots."

Obama demonstrators were also outspoken about why they would not support Palin.

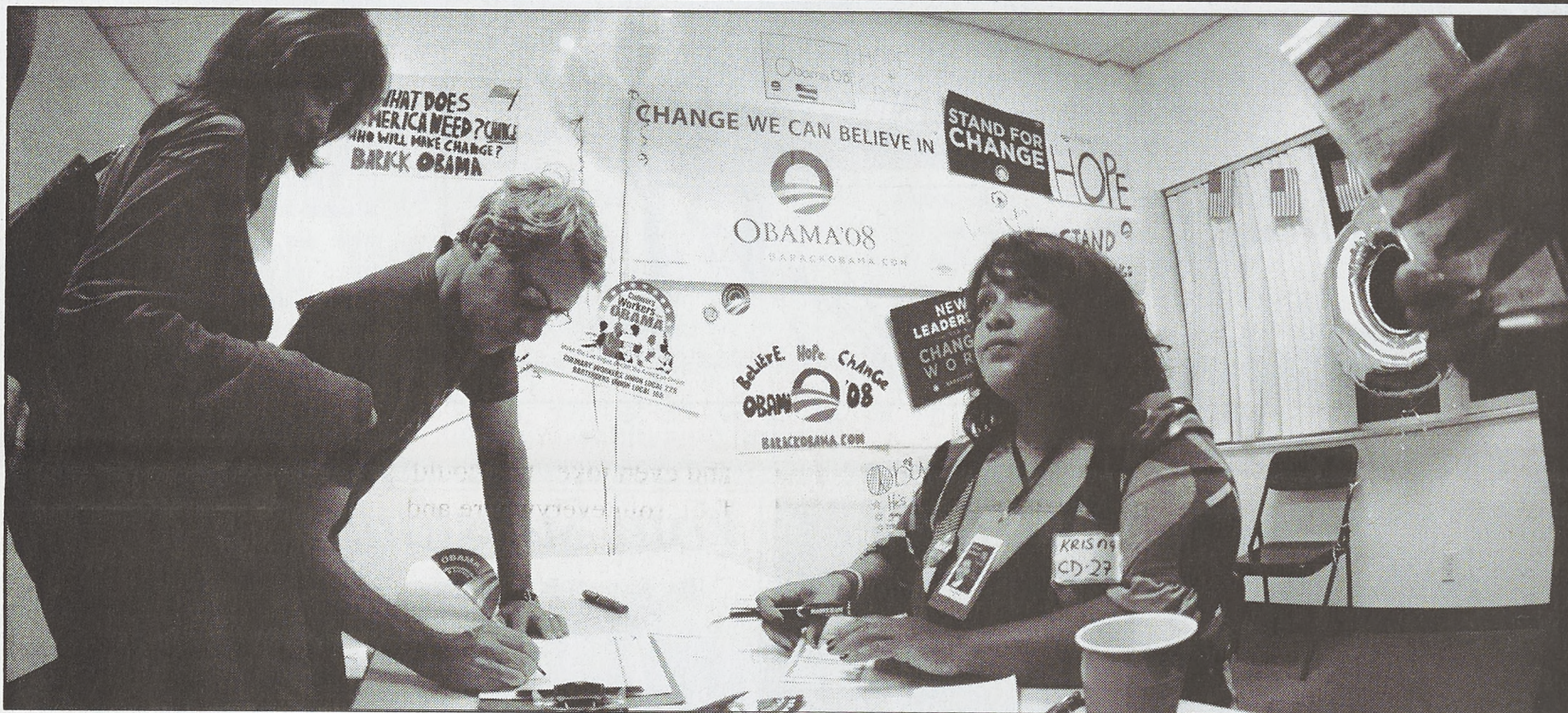
"I'm not a Palin supporter, no," said Glen Ponton, an Obama supporter who rallied outside the stadium. "I don't think she's qualified to be president. She under-

**"This is why my son is fighting the war in Iraq, for freedom of speech."**

-Sarah Palin  
Republican Vice  
Presidential Candidate

stands maybe local issues but not world issues. She's being force-fed information and she's just reciting what she heard. She doesn't know what the economy is about. She's doesn't know what people are doing in the war."

The "Road to Victory" Palin rallies continue well into this week, with her next stop in Wilmington, Ohio on Oct. 9.



**WORKING FOR CHANGE** - Obama volunteer coordinator, Krisna C. Velasco, welcoming guests to the grand opening of the Obama volunteer headquarters at 6850 Van Nuys Blvd. Velasco was a former Hilary Clinton delegate who decided to support the Obama-Biden campaign.

## Obama Sets Up Shop in the Valley

BY H. GORE  
SCOTT MITCHELL  
STAFF WRITERS

Valley College students that are looking to support the White House campaign of Sens. Barack Obama and Joe Biden now have a San Fernando Valley office where they can volunteer. The Obama headquarters, located at 6850 Van Nuys Blvd. Suite 110 in Van Nuys, is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day until November 4. The headquarters are tucked away in an office building just north of Vanowen Boulevard, and officially opened on Monday. Volunteers, friends, and supporters of Obama gathered at the opening and made plans for the final leg of the presidential race. Nancy Harewood, a cousin of Barack Obama, addressed those present, thank-

ing the volunteers in advance for the work that they will be doing between now and election day. "I've always believed Barack would be President and not only President but one of our greatest!" said Harewood. The majority of the duties available involve calling residents in Nevada in hopes of encouraging them to vote for Barack Obama. Nevada is a swing state that's very much in play, so the headquarters are planning trips there to canvas the area in addition to the phone calls. All are welcome to attend the trips to Nevada, but you must cover the costs on your own. "The time for change has never been greater than it is now. We need to show Americans that they do matter and that our leader does care," said volunteer coordinator and former Hilary Clinton delegate Krisna Velasco, who attended the grand opening of the headquarters Monday night.

While working in the office the volunteers are supplied food, drink, and a good atmosphere for like-minded people. A lack of experience shouldn't be a deterrent for those wanting to get involved. The headquarters' staff will supply you with a script, and teach you the ins and outs of working the phone bank. Taylor, 15, and her mother were making posters in one of the volunteer rooms, and the teenage girl said that she was volunteering because she was now old enough to understand the importance of politics. "Besides it being time for a change, my future depends on the right choice for president. Barack Obama is a leader who can guide us to a better future." People looking for more information on the Barack Obama San Fernando headquarters can call (310) 909-9822 or visit [www.barackobama.com](http://www.barackobama.com).

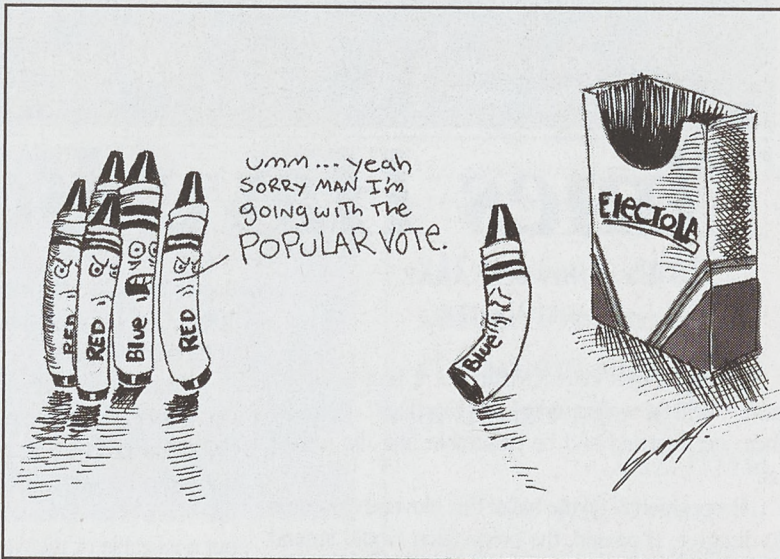
### COMMENTARY

## The Electoral College Dropout

BY BRAD TAYLOR  
STAFF WRITER

In elementary school we are taught that every vote matters. But in the world of politics, true democracy is an illusion cast by the Electoral College, and the idea of one person, one vote is wishful thinking. Nothing discourages a potential voter more than knowing their vote is irrelevant. California has 55 electoral votes, and it is no secret that Sen. Barack Obama is their candidate. This is why the senator doesn't spend much time in our state, he already knows the votes are solid. The campaign trail only really leads to places the candidates need the most help. According to CNN.com, in the 2000 Presidential

electoral voters can turn on their constituents and choose to side against the popular vote, a classic no-win situation. It is scary to think that 'Dancing with the Stars' is more democratic than our Presidential Election; with reality shows you know your votes count for something. Many who favor the electoral college often cite our Founding Fathers as proof this system was created for the good of the American people. But history shows that the creators of system rushed in with little discussion. They assumed George Washington would be president and wanted to avoid months of in-fighting, so they crafted the system without debate.



ILLUSTRATION/ EDUARDO HERRERA/ SPECIAL TO THE STAR

candidates visit. We see celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio parading on MTV urging voter registration, when the facts show the popular vote doesn't affect anything. Low voter turnout is often used to brow beat citizens into feeling guilt over their apathy, but this is to be expected when you see Al Gore get more popular votes, and still lose to George W. Bush. The immaterial nature of the popular vote is a harsh truth that many discover while watching the election results and scratching their heads. This does not follow the logic of democracy. Instead, it takes the power from the people. And the real rub is that the

In sixth grade, my classmates and I voted on what to name the class rabbit, and for some unknown reason we chose the name Smuckers. As stupid as the name was, the teacher let the name stand because we were being taught the importance of our vote and the consequences of the results. The electoral college is a relic that does not hold the best interest of the American people, and as seen in 2000, has led us to where we are today. This country literally cannot afford to ignore its citizens and we must have every persons vote count. This is something even a sixth grader can understand.

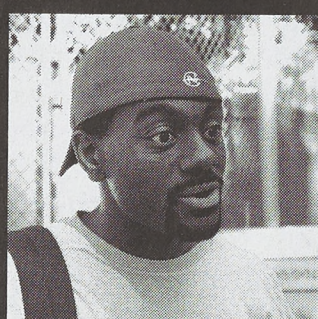
## ELECTION VIEW: Have the Presidential debates affected how you will vote?

PHOTOS BY SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER/VALLEY STAR



"Not really. I'd already decided before the debates. McCain is a candidate of change, but he is the same old thing."

- Steve Pride, 49  
Cinema



"Not at all...I'm a true Democrat and I stand behind Barack Obama and Joe Biden."

-Jamoeo Black, 30  
Film and Television



"Somewhat, especially the Vice Presidential debates. The image of [Sarah] Palin and the fact she's not knowledgeable enough to be in that post."

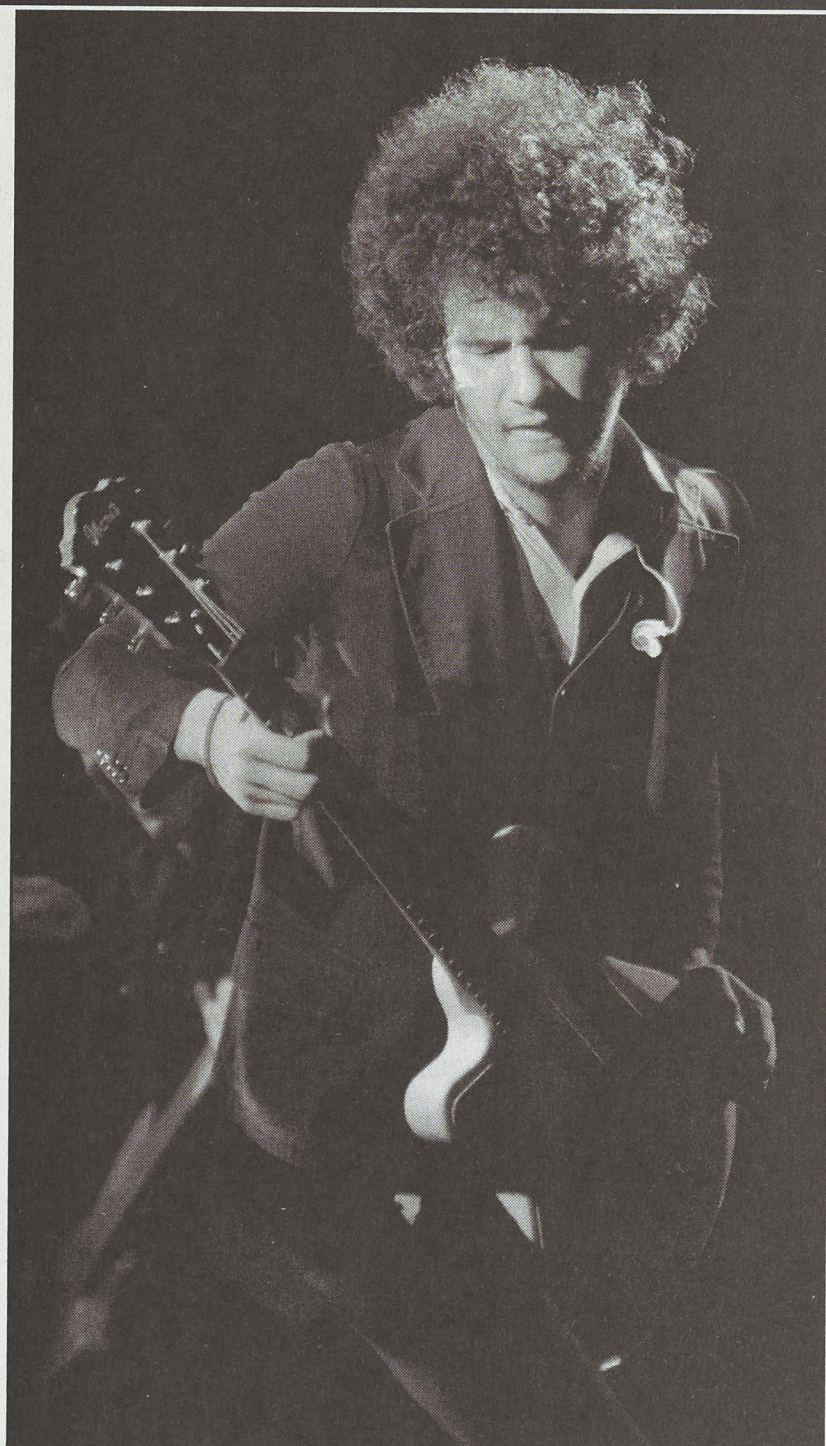
-Tammy Sands, 45  
Anthropology



"No, because I'm voting Obama, period. I grew up in a Republican family but Democrats do more for the people."

-Jennifer De La Cruz, 39  
Undecided





**DE-LOUSED IN L.A.** — Omar Rodriguez-Lopez of the eclectic progressive rock band The Mars Volta, sustains a note that echoes through the streets of Los Angeles during their headlining performance at the third annual L.A. Weekly Detour Festival Saturday night.

## No Dead Ends at Detour

■ Downtown streets close as The Mars Volta headlines the L.A. Weekly Detour Festival.

BY SASHA SANRACRUZ  
STAFF WRITER

"Next stop, Civic Center," is announced loudly over the intercom on the Metro Red Line. As I left the train station, I was lead to the intersection of Main and First Street by the distant uproar of music.

Spread across six city blocks, The L.A. Weekly Detour flooded the streets with food and various vendors such as the Music Institute, who raffled prizes and musical equipment, bringing more excitement to concertgoers.

More than 30 performers electrified the streets of Los Angeles on 4 different stages from noon to midnight on Saturday.

Many bands took advantage of the brief 35-minute set allotted to them. Rock band Mae Shi would finish one song and then instantly go on to the next. As the crowd began to grow, the band brought out a rainbow colored parachute, in spite of the gloomy day, for the multitude of people to enjoy. They held onto the edges, raising and lowering it, while those who were under danced around.

Other performers such as Cut Copy already had their loyal fan base waiting for their act. Their music seemed to give the listeners and passersby a step back into the 80s with their pop sound.

"You can tell that everyone enjoyed it and they had a lot of people singing along," said concert goer Jeremy Stilb. "They are

on their way to becoming popular."

As the evening approached, the streets were showing an extra amount of life as more people began to enter and the lines for alcohol began to grow.

Gogol Bordello gave an energetic performance. Lead singer Eugene Hütz Nikolaev came onto the stage with a bottle of wine

*"Help each other out, there is only four guys in yellow and there is a bunch of you."*

*Cedric Bixler Zavala-  
The Mars Volta*

and christened the crowd with his vocal declaration "Gypsy-Punk." They sang fan favorite "Ultimate" and the crowd went berserk. It seemed to be like Alice in Wonderland's Mad Hatter's tea party; complete dysfunctional madness. The frenzied audience kept pressing on to make it to the front, causing others like myself to land on the asphalt and overlap each other. As Gogol Bordello's set closed, one of the members threw her bass drum to the wave of people and began crowd surfing on it.

The Mars Volta set foot on the stage and the overpowering sound of their music began to be heard as they played Inertia ESP.

Giving the performance that their fans awaited, lead singer Cedric Zavala sporadically and spastically danced on stage, tossing his microphone and dangling on the lighting racks. Guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez upped the showmanship by intensely playing the guitar lost in the armada of orange amps and endless stomp boxes. The fans were pushed up against each other sweating, thirsty and beginning to look as though they were going to collapse. As The Mars Volta set progressed, the security tossed some opened water bottles and then hosed down the sweaty, writhing mass.

"Help each other out, there is only four guys [security guys] in yellow and there is a bunch of you," said lead singer Zavala.

For those who couldn't bear the intensity of the atmosphere had to scuffle their way out. Sitting on the cross street along the curbside from the stage was a group of soaked teenagers.

"We were here to see Mars Volta and only stayed in there for about a 1 1/2 hour," said Rese Hernandez. "It was completely crazy being in the front."

After their set, people still had time to catch the DJ playing trance and electronic music in front of the double doors leading into City Hall.

As for me, I walked away from the streets of L.A. in complete disbelief and a single thought; Where will my devotion for music take me next?

### UPCOMING RELEASES CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



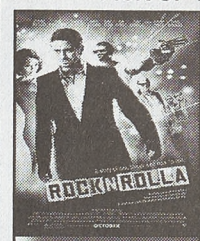
RISE AGAINST,  
APPEAL TO  
REASON

OTHER RELEASES:

Deerhoof, *Offend Maggie*  
John McLaughlin, *Ok Now*  
Tesla, *Forever More*  
Oasis, *Dig Out Your Soul*

### FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



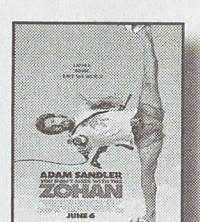
ROCKNROLLA,  
GERARD  
BUTLER,  
THANDIE  
NEWTON

UPCOMING RELEASES:

The Express, *Dennis Quad*  
Body of Lies, *Leonard DiCaprio*,  
City of Ember, *Bill Murray*

### DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



YOU DON'T  
MESS WITH THE  
ZOHAN  
Adm Sandler

OTHER RELEASES:

The Happening  
The Visitor  
Boy A

## LAVC EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 8

Job Fair & Workforce Development  
Event @ 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Pasadena  
Convention Center); Free

Music Department Presents "  
Chang Chong Korean Saxophonist  
Extraordinaire!!!" @ 1-2 p.m. (Music  
Recital Hall - M106) - Contact:  
Christian Nova (818) 947-2347

High Holiday Services at CSUN Hillel  
"Yom Kippur Service Candlelighting  
and Kol Nidre" @ 5:45 p.m. (CSUN  
Hillel, 17729 Plummer St., Northridge,  
CA 91325); Cost: \$125 for Community  
(for all services), Students/18 & under  
Free - Contact: (818) 887-5901

Friday, Oct. 10

LAVC Job Club @ 9 a.m. -12 noon (Faculty Lounge); Free - Contact: Job  
Training (818) 947-2941 <http://www.lavc.edu/jobtraining/jobclub.html>.

### Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority  
transfer application deadline is  
November 30. Apply on line at  
[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/)  
apply or [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

Guarantee your admission to  
a UC by participating in a UC  
Transfer Admission Guarantee  
Program. For program information,  
qualifications and applications  
visit the Career/Transfer  
Center, Admin. 126, or call (818)  
947-2646. All events held in the  
Career/Transfer Center

All events held in Career/Transfer  
Center unless otherwise indicated.  
Call (818) 947-2646 for further  
information.

Wednesday, October 8

How to Transfer Workshop 1  
p.m.-2 p.m.  
Undecided Major/Career  
Workshop 5:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m.  
University of Redlands Rep 5  
p.m.-7 p.m. in Monarch Square

Thursday, October 9

CSU Los Angeles Rep 10  
a.m.-1 p.m.  
Undecided Major/Career  
Workshop 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Additional content  
online - Go to  
[www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com)

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## Journey to the Holy Land

### Article 2 of 3

Valley Star Staff Writer Joe LaFleur will share his journey of his pilgrimage to Israel courtesy of the Israeli government in a three article spread exclusive to the Los Angeles Valley Star.

BY JOE LAFLEUR  
STAFF WRITER

I had certain expectations going to Israel and I had talked to a lot of people who had been to Israel. Everyone said the same thing - "Amazing." "Could you elaborate?" I would ask. "There are no other words," some would say. I remember a friend telling me, "You'll have a great time. The women are gorgeous and the land is beautiful. What more can I say?"

It was vague, high recommendations like these that got my expectation up yet left some doubt. "It's a free trip," I told myself. "If it goes terribly wrong at least it will have been free."

The trip did not meet my expectations; it far exceeded them.

Over the course of those 10 days after landing in Tel Aviv, spare time was hard to come by. When I did get the time to stop, catch my breath and look around, I noticed there was something to be learned from the people of Israel.

As a nation, the Israeli people had a way of making us feel welcome. We were 40 Americans traveling in the Middle East with no grasp of the culture that surrounded us. Still, everyone was more than willing to help, explain,

and even joke. You could feel from everywhere and everyone a sense of unity. Although I had never been to Israel before I felt like I had just come home to visit family that I had not seen in years and was greeted with open arms. It was a lifestyle that our group adopted over the next ten days. We became family.

Our trip began in Jerusalem, where we spent a lot of time at the Yehuda Guest House, which resembled a dorm more than anything else. It was situated on a hill, as is most of Jerusalem, surrounded by trees, white stone houses and buildings that looked centuries old. Within it was a pool basketball court and a large area where most of the guests hung out during the day.

The first two days we spent there fell on the Sabbath, the Jewish celebration for the day of rest described in Genesis. The Sabbath lasts from Friday at sundown to Saturday at sundown and the majority of Israel essentially closes. This gave us time to get to know each other. When sundown passed on Saturday we went out to a local bar called Bonita. Bonita was located on a narrow street, littered with people shopping and going to restaurants. We spent a couple hours inside the small, dark bar, drinking and dancing to American music, and left just as the nightlife seemed to be picking up. The next day we took a tour of the Old City, and visited the Western Wall.



SPORTS  
REPORTFOOTBALL  
PACIFIC  
CONFERENCE

COLLEGE	PC	ALL
Antelope Valley	2-0	2-3
Pierce	1-0	1-3
<b>Valley</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>2-3</b>
Southwest	1-1	1-4
Santa Barbara	1-1	1-4
Santa Monica	1-1	1-4
West L.A.	0-1	1-3
East L.A.	0-2	0-5

WATER POLO  
WESTERN STATE  
CONFERENCE  
MEN

COLLEGE	WSC	ALL
Ventura	1-0	9-7
<b>Valley</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>9-8</b>
Cuesta	0-0	8-8
Citrus	1-1	6-11
Santa Monica	0-1	1-14

## WOMEN

COLLEGE	WSC	ALL
Citrus	2-0	7-7
Cuesta	1-0	7-15
<b>Valley</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>10-4</b>
Ventura	0-1	8-7
Santa Monica	0-2	0-6

CROSS COUNTRY  
SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
PREVIEW TEAM  
RESULTS - MEN

SCHOOL	POINTS
1 Orange Coast	92
2 American River	129
3 Mt SAC	159
4 El Camino	171
<b>11 Valley</b>	<b>321</b>

Valley runner Andrew Salg placed first in the men's division, (20:21). The top placed female for Valley was Mekka Edwards-White (21:31.19), who finished 87th. The women placed 17th out of 29 scoring teams.

## Monarchs Roar at Homecoming Game

BY H. GORE  
STAFF WRITER

Coming home proved to be the perfect remedy for Valley College as they returned to Monarch Stadium after two consecutive road losses, posting a 35-10 victory over the West Los Angeles Wildcats. The win was a result of Valley's most well-rounded game of the season, and pulls their record up to 2-3.

The first quarter of Valley's Homecoming ended scoreless, but the Monarchs erupted for 21 points in the second after falling behind 3-0. LAVC running back James Walker scored the first of two touchdowns on an 18-yard run and from there, the defense locked down on the Wildcats. Defensive back Rodney Glass had two interceptions in the game, and feels the Monarchs' coaches deserve the credit.

"The coaching staff made some adjustments during the week that made a big difference," said Glass. "Our turnovers gave the offense the ball in good position and they produced."

The defense ended the game forcing five turnovers, with

three interceptions and two fumble recoveries. Linebacker DeAndre Bowman had an interception and a sack as the Monarchs used three linebackers as down lineman for the majority of the game. This was a one game strategy devised to slow down the Wildcats spread offense. There were rumors of a quarterback change for Valley early in the week, but Offensive Coordinator Dameon Porter made the call to leave things as they were.

"I'm an extremely loyal guy. Always have been," said Porter. "I'm always gonna dance with the girl I brought to the party."

Porter's decision to stick with the status quo paid off. Bret Visciglia threw three touchdown passes, including a 24-yard hook-up with receiver Gerald Scarber. Visciglia also delivered one of the game's hardest hits while blocking on a run play, causing the Monarchs' sideline to let loose howls after the blow.

"Coach told me not to block anybody on the play, but when I saw that big guy there I had to take a shot," said Visciglia.



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR  
**CRUSHED** - Freshman wide receiver Adam Clark is leveled by a West Los Angeles College defensive player during the Valley College win at Monarch Stadium Saturday night. After the hit was made, a loud voice from the visitors side of the field shouted, "That's how we hit on the west side!"

The defense played solid against the pass the entire game. Rodney Glass' second interception came late in the fourth quarter and led to the exclamation point from the Valley

offense. After taking over possession, Visciglia hit receiver Matt Johnson for a 53-yard touchdown, putting the game hopelessly out of reach for West L.A. and sending Valley into the

bye week on a high note.

The Monarchs return to the field on Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. when they travel to play East Los Angeles College.



SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR  
**TURF DIVE** - Valley College goalie Jocelyn Mercado makes a brilliant save in the second half of play against Pierce College at Monarch Stadium, Sept. 31. The ladies were unable to beat the Brahmas, losing 3-1.

## Soccer Loses Its Kick

## ■ The Lady Monarchs season now sits at 2-7-2

BY SCOTT MITCHELL  
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Valley College soccer team lost 3-0 to a strong and fast squad from Pierce College in a hard fought and exciting soccer match at Monarch Stadium Tuesday.

The first half of the game saw Pierce take a 1-0 lead. The Lady Monarchs stepped up their game, particularly on the defensive end, and were able to stay close to the Pierce squad which is ranked 14th in the state.

"I was very pleased with the way that we played," said Coach Shane Watkins. "It was probably the first time all season where we showed some real determination and real will to compete in a game."

The Monarchs' intensity and hustle on the field was a noticeable step up from their recent games. The defensive effort at midfield by the Monarchs as well as some key saves by goalkeeper Jocelyn Mercado kept the game close up until the last part of the second half.

Pierce moved the ball well with an aggressive and balanced attack. Spreading the field, Pierce charged the goalie, made sharp passes, and never let up. After scoring two more goals late in the second half, Pierce put the game away.

"Even though the result was not in our favor against Pierce I was pleased and our girls walked off the field with their heads up high," said Watkins.

## Baseball Playoffs Serve Up Potential

## ■ With four teams left vying for a place in history, which players will step up?

BY JOE LAFLEUR  
STAFF WRITER

It was the top of the fifth inning when James Loney made his way to the plate with the bases loaded and two outs. The Chicago Cubs were ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-0, and Ryan Dempster was on the mound. With a 1-2 count, Dempster threw a change up to Loney that was deposited in the center field bleachers for a grand slam. This turned out to be the deciding moment in Game One of the National League Division Series, which the Dodgers won 7-2.

This type of moment is expected from players like Manny Ramirez, Vladimir Guerrero or David Ortiz but the not the likes of a third-year first baseman who hit .289 with 13 home runs during the regular season.

Each year, fans watch the postseason with the anticipation of seeing the big named players make the big plays, but it is the little-known, unsung heroes that give us the most memorable playoff moments. So while our eyes are on Vlad, Manny and Big Papi, the question is, which of the lesser-known players can you look to for potential big performances?

**Boston Red Sox:** The Red Sox have a well-balanced lineup with both power and speed. Their one through nine hitters are all capable of producing and everyone knows that David Ortiz can come up with clutch hits. However, it's their leadoff man Jacoby Ellsbury who has the potential of being a quiet hero for

this team. Ellsbury stole 50 bases this season, which makes him a threat on the bases and sets him up for the possibility of some 9th inning heroics.

**Tampa Bay Rays:** In their first playoff appearance in team history, the Rays are the Cinderella story of this season. With the smallest payroll in the major leagues and arguably only one big name player in Evan Longoria, they have a number of potential heroes, but one stands out above the rest. B.J. Upton looks like he has the potential to surprise a lot of fans this post season. Upton hit .273 with 9 home runs, 67 RBI and 44 stolen bases, but don't let his low number fool you. He is not only a threat on the bases but also has more power in his swing than is apparent.

**Los Angeles Dodgers:** With James Loney already proving his ability to pack a punch, Dodger fans can look to Casey Blake for an extra post-season push. Blake was a mid-season acquisition who was overshadowed by the arrival of Ramirez. Blake hit .274 with 21 home runs and 81 RBI. He may not hit for average but he has the power to come through big with the game on the line.

**Philadelphia Phillies:** The Phillies had a disappointing post season last year and hope to make up for that in 2008. Outfielder Shane Victorino showed that he has the power to match his speed when he hit a grand slam in game two of the NLDS against the Milwaukee Brewers. Expect Victorino to keep this up throughout the playoffs if the Phillies go far.

**"...While our eyes are on Vlad, Manny and Big Papi, the question is, which of the lesser-known players can you look to for potential big performances?"**

## DOWN BY THE RIVER SIDE

PHOTOS AND TEXT  
BY SCOTT MITCHELL

Under a blistering sun, the Riverside College water polo team proved too much to handle as the Monarchs went down 15-9 at home Friday.

Riverside led Valley College 5-1 after the first period and extended their lead to 9-2 going into the next. The second half saw Riverside pressing on the offensive and defensive sides of the pool. Valley managed to set up several offensive drives but were unable to convert them into points, as they kept hitting the goal post. Most of their other attempts on goal were either wide of the net or found their way into the hands of the Riverside goalie.

The third period ended with Riverside leading 11-4. The Monarchs staged a scoring rally in the last period, with five goals making it safely to the back of the Riverside net.

**ABOVE** - Aggressive play by Riverside College negated any home advantage the Monarchs had hoped for.

**LEFT** - A Monarch shot for goals sails over the net.

